

OPC Bulletin

Meet the New Club Manager: Sonya Fry

BY CHRISTIE L. EMDEN

Eagerly and enthusiastically—that's how Sonya K. Fry is embracing her new position as manager of the Overseas Press Club, which she began in mid-May.

"I'm meeting a lot of board members, and they've all been really wonderful to me," said Sonya. "They're fascinating and very remarkable people, and I'm hoping to do a good job for them."



Sonya Fry

WPIX-Channel 11.

A resident of Brooklyn, N.Y., Sonya and her husband, James, who works for Mobil Oil, have spent much of their spare time renovating their 1888 brownstone. When she's not busy at home, Sonya volunteers her time to a number of civic and charitable organizations. She is currently head of the arts committee of the Brooklyn Oratory. In the past, Sonya spent considerable time volunteering for a homeless shelter. Some of her other hobbies include gardening, walking and dancing.

An era ends in the OPC as its captain retires:

A Farewell to Mary

BY CARYN FRIEDMAN

After 22 years of dedicated and devoted service to the OPC as club manager, Mary Novick retired in June. She was warmly applauded by 30 friends at a luncheon held on June 14, at the Williams Club in New York City.

Speaking as one of the many club Presidents who worked with Mary, Larry Smith remarked on how "strong and courageous—and compassionate—Mary has been."

Other colleagues who have worked with Mary over the years include former OPC presidents Anita Diamant, H.L. Stevenson and Herb Kupferberg.

One of the highlights of the luncheon was George Burns' hilarious rendering of OPC history and the integral role



Mary Novick

played by Mary. Burns said of Mary:

"Like a granite rock on the sea-shore these 22 years, as waves and waves of presidents and officers just wash up past her, fling themselves on the beach, and wash back into the ocean and disappear—and she

remains."

Mary was presented with a gold bracelet and charm inscribed, "OPC 1972-1994" on one side and "Thanks, Mary" on the reverse. Felice Levin, who chaired the luncheon committee, announced that a television would be delivered to Mary's home, and a videotape of the event was being prepared.

"It was a love affair from the beginning," said Mary, who was touched by the farewell. "It's still a love affair today!" We wish her well.

Special 1994 Election Issue:

Pages 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7 • The Candidates

Page 8 • Time magazine covers the OPC

**Reminder: Ballots are due by Aug. 16

John Wilhelm

BY H.L. STEVENSON

John R. Wilhelm, a former president of the OPC, died on June 6, on the 50th anniversary of the Allied D-Day landings in Europe which he covered.

Wilhelm, 78, dean emeritus of the journalism school at Ohio University, served as a correspondent for the Chicago Tribune before joining Reuters on the eve of the invasion.

He was pinned down with an American unit for a full day after wading ashore on Omaha Beach. After the breakout, he followed the lib-

erating troops into Paris and on to Germany. One of his biggest stories was the bold Allied strike across the bridge at Remagen, while the Germans worked frantically to destroy it.



John Wilhelm

In Paris, he met his future wife, Margaret, a Red Cross nurse, and they were married before 1944 was out, an event that was recorded, he liked to recall, in the pages of *Life*.

After the war, Wilhelm built the McGraw-Hill News Service into a strong worldwide force in business coverage.

He served as OPC president in the mid-1960s, establishing *Dateline* magazine and organizing the OPC Foundation, in a period when the club had its own building and more than 2000 members.

Contributions in his memory may be made to the John Wilhelm Foreign Internship Fund, E.W. Scripps School of Journalism, Ohio University, Athens, Ohio 45701.

What's Going On Lately?

Mr. and Mrs. President

Mr. President. The following year, Mrs. President. They are husband and wife. Bruce MacDonnell and his wife, Mary Ann Maskery, the only couple to serve terms as president of the Foreign Correspondents Club of Japan, left Tokyo this spring for new assignments in Los Angeles. Bruce, the club president from 1986 to 1987, became supervisory producer of a new weekly arts and entertainment television series for Time Warner after years with Westinghouse Broadcasting and NBC News. Maskery, the club president from 1987 to 1988, continues to write for *Automotive News*.

Welcome Aboard

Six new members have just joined the OPC. They are:

Diane Downs, photographer, associate resident; **Linda Fasulo**, United Nations reporter for National Public Radio, active resident; **Maxine Mawhinney**, Good Morning television/Reuters TV, active nonresident; **Dean Milhovan**, editor of *Dreptatea* (*The Justice*), Romanian newspaper in the U.S., and *Vremea* in Bucharest, active resident; **G. Jefferson Price III**, foreign editor, *Baltimore Sun*, active nonresident; **Gary Weiss**, associate editor, *Business Week*, active resident.

OPC News Bites...

• **OPCer Receives Award.** Long-time member Bill Williamson was honored recently by two international media groups for "outstanding service to freedom of expression and to newspapers." The International Federation of Newspaper Publishers presented Williamson with an encapsulated miniature Gutenberg press in Vienna, Austria, this June. The International Association of Broadcasting honored him with a plaque at Margarita Island, Venezuela, in April.

• **Gone Fishing.** Former magazine editor and OPC member Alfred Balk has retired from the Syracuse University journalism to return to writing. The founding editor of *World Press Review* and former editor of the *Columbia Journalism Review*, he is writing a book on network radio's great age.

• **Obituary.** OPCer Thomas R. Curran, 92, who during his long career with UPI served as vice president of two foreign divisions, died June 15.

1994 OPC Elections: Biographies of Candidates

Enclosed in your mailing is the ballot for the 1994 OPC elections. Please note: All ballots must be returned to the OPC office by noon on Tuesday, August 16, in order for your vote to count.

President

William Holstein

As president, I would hope to continue the club's progress in reestablishing itself as the preeminent organization defending and



promoting the profession of covering the world. Although there are some exceptions, the dominant trend in American journalism these days seems to be cutting

back on worldwide newsgathering, on getting by with less, and on going soft when there are hard news stories that need to be covered. If we, the practitioners, don't say that our craft is important, who will?

I have been involved in the business for about 20 years, in wire service journalism as well as the magazine variety, and I have served both as a correspondent in the field and as an editor in New York. I have been with *Business Week* magazine for almost 10 years and am the editor of its international edition, which reaches some 170 countries and territories. Prior to that I spent a decade with United Press International, including postings in Hong Kong and Beijing.

The reason I am dedicated to the club is that I won an OPC award for my coverage of China's modernization drive in 1980 and another as an editor of a *Business Week* cover on Japan in 1987. Getting those awards gave me a career lift, and I'm pleased that our awards have continued to gain in stature and recognition.

Over the past four years, I have served as program chairman for the club, helping organize events for such speakers as Walter Cronkite, Winston Lord, Bosnian Ambassador Muhammad Sacirbey, and others. The subjects have ranged from U.S.-Asian relations to Bosnia to Islamic fundamentalism. One goal as we head into the future will be to make the programs more fun, as well as

informative.

As vice president, I have helped President Larry Smith make some tough decisions on where to locate the club, on finding a successor to Mary Novick, on publishing the *Bulletin* and *Dateline*, on nominating new board members, and similar challenges. I have acted as chairman of a judging panel for two years. Moreover, I also have attempted to nurture the club's relations with the Committee to Protect Journalists, the Foreign Press Association, the Deadline Club, the U.N. Correspondents Association and other organizations so that we can leverage all our resources in attracting speakers and speaking on behalf of the profession.

So although I represent a generational transition for the club, I'm confident that, with my fellow governors, we can continue pushing the OPC toward center stage.

Vice Presidents

Janice Castro

Janice Castro writes about politics and business for *Time* magazine, specializing in major policy issues. She is the author of *The*



American Way of Health: How Medicine Is Changing, and What It Means To You (Little, Brown). Castro has been covering health policy for *Time* since 1984.

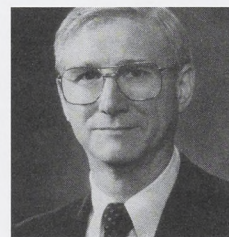
In addition to covering health-care policy, Castro's business specialties are airlines, advertising and marketing, manufacturing, management and retailing.

Castro has written extensively about politics and foreign affairs, economics, science, the press and the entertainment business. She has reported cover stories on the American health-care system, the high cost of medical care, the crisis over drugs in the workplace, American

leadership, space and prime-time television..

John R. Corporon

John R. Corporon is senior vice president and news director of WPIX, New York, which produces the hour-long Channel 11 News at 10 seven nights a week.



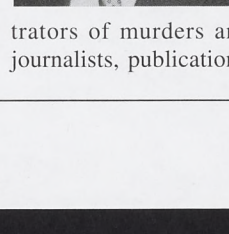
Corporon joined WPIX in 1972 and expanded the station's news operation. The station's newscasts have three times won New York's Outstanding News

Broadcast Emmy Award.

Corporon came to WPIX from the Washington Post Company where he served as vice president and general manager of WTOP-TV in Washington, and later as head of Newsweek Broadcasting Service, which he founded. Corporon is the founding president of the Independent Television News Association (ITNA), which was begun in 1975, and he co-founded the Independent Network News (1980-90). He was a two-term member on the board of the Overseas Press Club, served as its treasurer and is currently a trustee of the OPC Foundation.

Norman A. Schorr

As chairman of the OPC's Freedom of the Press Committee for the past several years, Norman Schorr has been active in directing appeals and protests to heads of governments, calling on them to release journalists held as prisoners, and/or investigate and prosecute perpetrators of murders and other assaults on journalists, publications, radio and TV sta-



1994 OPC Elections: Biographies of Candidates

tions. Also, in behalf of OPC, he has joined other media, human rights organizations in fighting for free press, environments in which newspeople can work without harassment or intimidation. The committee estimates that about 75 OPC appeals/protests have been issued in the past year in behalf of about 200 journalists.

He is a longtime OPC member who has served as treasurer for three years, awards chairman and reporter on status of press freedom at the recent awards dinner. Schorr is a former UPI newsmen, a *Detroit Free Press* correspondent, a magazine writer, and a current principal in a public relations firm.

Treasurer

George Burns

The OPC has just retired our long-term debt—Hallelujah—and we're keeping income and expenses in line. But to *do* anything enterprising, we need more income. Of our two sources of income, the annual Banquet/Awards/*Dateline* income is reasonably stable, but dues income declines each year.

Some suggest raising dues, but we'd end up with fewer members and no gain. The board of governors has discussed corporate memberships and fundraising, and both should be pursued. We talk of a membership drive, but that raises the question—what are we selling? Or more to the point, what is our membership market buying? Prestige? Programs? Reciprocal club privileges? I don't think we know clearly or with certainty.

A membership drive is another name for a marketing campaign. It calls for market research, to determine—not assume or guess—what our market wants, and product

development to design a club offering what our marketplace is willing to buy. We should approach the task professionally.

I think the next administration's job is nothing less than to redesign the OPC for today and the future.

Secretary

Felice Levin

Since I relocated from the midwest 27 years ago, the OPC has been an organization that has been at the center of my professional and personal life. Its programs, with their world view, have extended my horizons, and some of the members now rank among my closest friends.



(Another plus: I met my husband, Harry, also an OPC member, at the old 40th Street headquarters.)

In turn, it has been a privilege for me to work on the club's behalf. After three terms on the board as an associate member, 12 years as elections committee chairman, and a stint as secretary pro tem, I was promoted to Active status.

This year, I have served on the boards of both the OPC and the OPC Foundation, where I put my fundraising skills to good use and chaired the farewell luncheon of our remarkable club manager, Mary Novick. If elected as secretary, I look forward to participating in executive committee decision-making and helping to move the club in dynamic, new directions while retaining the best of our traditions.

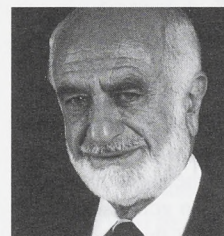
My professional experience blends writing, editing and issues analysis. In New York, for many years I was a public affairs consultant to the Ford Foundation, where I evaluated nationwide programs as varied as public-interest law and minority business enterprise. Since 1989, I have been the

senior writer at UJA-Federation of Jewish Philanthropies.

Active Governors

Whitman Bassow

Whitman Bassow has been a member of the OPC since 1955, when he was a UPI correspondent in Moscow. His subsequent



journalism career, most of which was spent in overseas assignments, included CBS News (New York); *Newsweek* bureau chief, Moscow; and correspondent in the magazine's Paris bureau. Bassow left journalism in 1969 to work in the public affairs department of the Ford Foundation. After two years, he joined the United Nations to serve as senior public affairs officer for the U.N. Conference on the Environment (Stockholm, 1972).

A past member of the board of governors, Bassow's honors include a Fulbright Fellowship for study in France and the Edward R. Murrow Fellowship of the Council on Foreign Relations. His book, *The Moscow Correspondents: Reporting on Russia from the Revolution to Glasnost* (Morrow), won the OPC award for the best book on foreign affairs in 1988.

Jane Ciabattari



Jane Ciabattari writes the "Intelligence Report" column for *Parade* magazine, which regularly covers international affairs. She has reported from Prague on the breakup of Czechoslovakia,

1994 OPC Elections: Biographies of Candidates

from Brussels on NATO, as well as from London, Berlin and Rome.

Formerly the editor-in-chief of *Dial*, the public television magazine, she also has been managing editor of *Redbook*, and managing editor of *California Living*, the Sunday magazine of the *San Francisco Examiner & Chronicle*. Her editorial awards include the Gavel, the Headliner and the Clarion.

Her book, *Winning Moves* (Macmillan/Penguin), was a Literary Guild selection. She has been awarded fellowships for fiction by the New York Foundation for the Arts, the MacDowell Colony and the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts.

She has just completed a term as a vice president of the Women's Media Group.

Jan Ellis

Jan Ellis is a reporter for *Al-Kifah al-Arabi*, covering news and feature stories concerning U.S. and U.N. policy in the



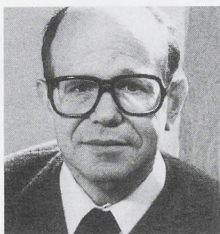
Middle East. In addition, she also reports for WBAI-FM—Pacifica, covering news and feature stories. In the past, she has worked as the

director of publications for the Committee to Protect Journalists and has also been in charge of the committee's quarterly newsletter, *Attacks on the Press*. In addition, she has worked at *Newsweek* as an editor and a reporter. In 1989, she wrote news for the CBS news division.

Ellis has been a member of the OPC since 1990 and is the editor of *NOW York Woman*, the publication of the National Organization for Women.

Fred Ferguson

I have been active in the OPC Foundation and in publicizing the club's



efforts on behalf of jailed journalists, the annual awards and speaker programs. I seek election to the OPC board to help wherever needed.

My special interest is in working on our public relations. Service on the OPC board is, for me, an opportunity to contribute something of value while enjoying the camaraderie of the OPC.

My background: I served three years with *Pacific Stars & Stripes* and 27 years with UPI; I worked for eight years in public relations, during which time I edited the *OPC Bulletin*; I edited an issue of *Dateline*; I have directed PRN's Feature News Service since 1991.

Maria Ferris

Maria Ferris has been broadcasting since 1986. Her career began with a radio show she created called "Common



Concerns". Having produced and hosted 38 public affairs programs for public radio from 1986-

88, Ferris expanded this show for cable TV. From 1988 to the present, she has produced and hosted more than 120 "Common Concerns" programs about mental health and family issues airing statewide on The Cable Television Network of New Jersey (CTN-NJ). Ferris is a winner of the 1992 CAPE AWARD (Cable Award in Programming Excellence) for Best Single Program as an Independent Producer in the Today's Life Category. This is her third CAPE award.

Ferris is a member of the OPC and was a judge for the 1991 OPC awards. She is also

a trustee and officer of the OPC Foundation.

Allan Dodds Frank

Allan Dodds Frank joined ABC News as the business investigative correspondent in 1988, and during the last year has been working behind the scenes as an investiga-



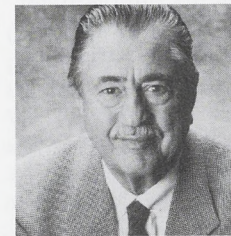
tive producer on *Whitewater* and the *Clintons*. Previously, he was a senior editor at *Forbes* magazine. He worked for *Forbes* as a correspondent in the

Washington, D.C., bureau from 1981-85. Frank worked for the *Anchorage Daily News* in the various posts of reporter, sports editor and Juneau bureau chief. From 1973-81 he worked as a metropolitan and national staff writer at *The Washington Star*.

Frank won the 1972 First Prize Award of the Alaska Press Club for his stories on the disappearance of Congressman Hale Boggs. In 1976 he won the Baltimore-Washington Newspaper Guild Front Page Award for "interpretive reporting." He also has shared Front Page Awards in the "public service" and "deadline news" categories.

Bernard Gavzer

Bernie Gavzer is a veteran newsman with a distinguished career in investigative journalism. He is a product of on-the-street,



foot-slogging, hard-hitting Chicago journalism. Presently, he is a contributing editor of *PARADE* magazine.

In 1973, he created an investigative team for WNBC-TV, during the course

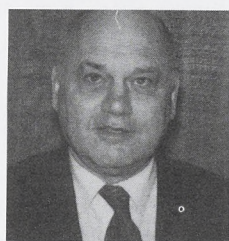
1994 OPC Elections: Biographies of Candidates

of which he won four individual Emmys as producer-writer. One report dealt with the dangers of asbestos; another, the dangers of flammable pup tents (resulting in new federal legislation); another with a meat market scam, and a fourth for Mexican black-market babies. He was special producer of a network documentary on the Mafia, focused upon the activities of Joe Colombo.

Before joining NBC, he was a member of the AP NewsFeatures team in New York and traveled widely in our country as well as Central and South America, Europe, North Africa and Vietnam. He also produced definitive reports on Sirhan Sirhan, James Earl Ray and Jack Ruby. He began reporting on the troubles in Northern Ireland in August 1969 and has produced major reports for newspapers and PARADE.

Karl Grün

Karl Grün has been representing *Börsen-Zeitung* of Germany and *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* of Switzerland as their financial and commodities correspondent in

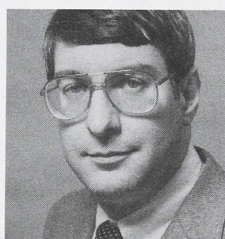


the U.S. since 1987. *Börsen-Zeitung* is a very specialized daily financial newspaper that is trying to keep its small but influential readership informed about "everything that moves prices," says Grün. *Neue Zürcher* is Switzerland's best-known and highly reputed German language daily.

Outside of Europe his international assignments brought him in closer contact with the Middle East, South Africa and parts of the Pacific Basin as well, of course, as the U.S. Grün is a member of the Foreign Press Association (in which he has been treasurer since 1988), the New York Financial Writers Association and (since 1990) the OPC.

Thomas Kent

Thomas J.R. Kent, international editor of the Associated Press, is in charge of all news operations outside the United States.



He directs the work of editors and writers at AP's international desk in New York and foreign correspondents in nearly 70 countries.

Prior to his appointment in 1990, Kent had been news editor of AP's world service division, Moscow bureau chief, NATO and European community correspondent in Brussels and head of AP operations in Iran during the Iranian revolution. Other assignments have been in Hartford, Sydney and New York.

Kent was born in 1950 and is from Cleveland, Ohio. He joined AP in Hartford in 1972. He graduated from Yale University with a degree in Soviet and East European Studies and speaks Russian, French and Spanish.

Midge Longley

I have been privileged to serve on the board of governors with dynamic leadership of first-rate journalists who have been re-

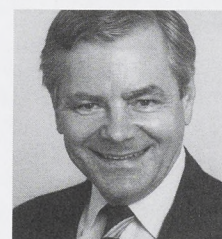


inventing a club that embraces change while retaining valued traditions. The OPC is a place for journalists to share their experiences and new ideas to move our profession into the 21st century. It is inspiring to be part of it.

My personal goal, if elected to the board of governors, will be to help branch out to the professionals we serve and also to corporate America, who needs to understand how news should be covered and how they can best communicate with the press and media.

Lawrence Martz

Editor of *World Press Review* magazine, **Larry Martz** was a *Newsweek* staffer for 32 years, including stints as business editor, national affairs editor, assistant managing editor and editor of *Newsweek International*.



Martz joined *Newsweek* in 1961 as a writer. His

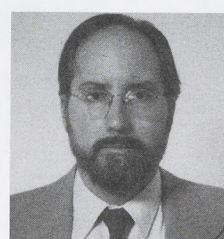
honors include the J.C. Penney-University of Missouri award for business writing and the Silver Gavel Award of the American Bar Association.

As editor of *Newsweek International*, Martz ran the three overseas editions of the magazine. Stories written for *Newsweek International* won three OPC awards during his editorship. Then returning to the domestic magazine as a special writer, he wrote cover stories on national affairs, business and the economy. He joined *World Press Review*, the monthly digest of international news and views, as editor last October.

Martz has written two books, *Ministry of Greed* (with Ginny Carroll) and *Making Schools Better*. He is a member of the OPC and the American Society of Magazine Editors.

Michael Serrill

Michael S. Serrill is a senior writer at *Time* magazine. Employed by that publication for 11 years, he has written about foreign



affairs for the last eight, specializing in Latin America, the Middle East and sub-Saharan Africa. He also writes occasionally about international legal issues, having started his career at *Time* as the writer-editor of the Law section.

1994 OPC Elections: Biographies of Candidates

Prior to his arrival at *Time*, Serrill spent a decade as a reporter and editor for two non-profit publications concerned with the U.S. and international criminal justice system.

Serrill has a master's degree from the Columbia University School of Journalism and an undergraduate certificate from Pennsylvania State University. He has been a judge in the OPC Annual Awards for three years, and last year was co-chair of the Awards Committee with Allan Frank.

Caryl Stern

Caryl Stern has been a freelance writer since 1979, with frequent bylines in *Parade* magazine and *The New York Times* as well



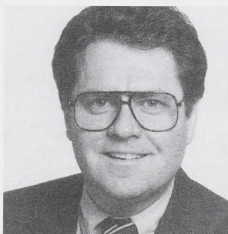
as publications ranging from *Diversion* magazine to *Opera News* and *The Daily News*. For the last seven years, she has also

been the director of the Medical Arts Studio at Mount Sinai Hospital. In addition, she has acted off-off Broadway and has directed and produced theater and television shows in Connecticut.

She supports increased action by the OPC in behalf of journalists imprisoned overseas, and measures to prevent future imprisonments. She also supports stronger links with press clubs around the world, both in terms of reciprocal privileges and in terms of joint campaigns in behalf of journalists worldwide.

Chris Willcox

Chris Willcox has been a journalist for more than 20 years, working for news services, newspapers, broadcasting and magazines—in the United States and Europe. Before joining *Reader's Digest* in New York five years ago, he was a programming manager at Radio Free Europe/Radio



Liberty in Munich. He began his career as a police reporter at the Chicago City News Bureau, a local news wire service. He was an

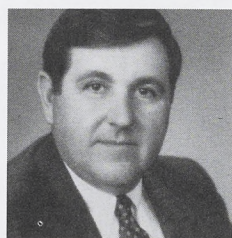
editorial writer and columnist for the *Detroit News* before moving to Munich. Since June 1991, Willcox has been *Reader's Digest's* executive editor, international, supervising the magazine's 40 editions outside the United States.

Reader's Digest will launch its latest edition of the magazine in the Czech republic in November. In the past two years, the magazine launched new editions in Russia and Hungary. Says Willcox, "At *Reader's Digest*, we believe passionately that the free flow of news and information across borders is essential to world peace and stability."

Associates

Frederick E. Bona

Fred Bona became a principal of The Dilenschneider Group, a public relations firm, earlier this year following a 32-year



career at W.R. Grace & Co., where he last served as a corporate vice president and head of the company's corporate communications division. He

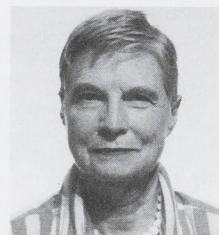
also served the OPC as a member of the board of governors from 1988 to 1991, but had to resign due to a company relocation to Florida. He has just returned to New York.

Bona joined Grace in 1962 as a public relations representative and progressed in a

number of executive positions including responsibility for the company's media relations, public affairs, public relations and corporate advertising functions. During his tenure as an OPC governor, Bona produced the last OPC membership directory.

Elinor Griest

When I joined the OPC in 1961 as a New York-based *Reader's Digest* editor, "Active" membership was restricted to



those with media service abroad. That was the intent of the pre-Pearl Harbor foreign correspondents who founded the only truly international press club in the

country in 1939. It still enjoys that distinction—although the Active category has long since expanded to include those without journalistic overseas experience.

On the admissions committee for the past four years, I've had a part in widening category definitions still more—and in adding a junior membership (age 29 or younger) for those just starting their journalistic careers. At our new location near the United Nations, we hope to welcome new Active and Associate members.

Another step forward is President Smith's proposal to update our more-or-less obsolete list of press club contacts around the world—to build a reciprocal network that will attract members and strengthen ties with fellow journalists everywhere.

I've been occupied with this project (and with exorcising gremlins) over the past few months with the help of many. Besides the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., links have been formed and welcomes assured at clubs in London, Tokyo, Moscow, Frankfurt and many more to follow.

Time Magazine Covers the OPC D-Day Luncheon

I plunged out of the plane door happy to be leaving a ship that was heading toward flak and more Germans. The jump was from such low altitude that there was only a moment to look around in the moonlight after my chute opened..." Thus began the D-Day dispatch from *Time* correspondent William Walton, who dropped into Normandy in the early-morning hours of June 6, 1944, with the paratroopers of the U.S. 82nd Airborne Division.

Walton is one of thousands whose thoughts will return to Normandy next week as the world commemorates the 50th anniversary of D-Day. *Time* marks the event in this issue with a special report that includes an account of the campaign by military historian John Keegan and an essay by Europe editor Christopher Redman on the lessons the great invasion still holds for today's Europe.

Last week Walton and three other surviving Normandy journalists, including Walter Cronkite and Andy Rooney of CBS, were honored at New York City's Overseas Press Club. Already a veteran war correspondent when he leaped out of Brigadier General James Gavin's C-47, Walton would go on to report from a dozen battlefields as Allied forces drove the

German army east. His elegantly written dispatches for both *Time* and *Life*, to quote a recent article in *Town & Country* magazine, "were like bright streaks in the sky above the real

know the Kennedy clan—counting as his greatest experience "riding down Pennsylvania Avenue in the Inaugural parade ahead of my friend who had been elected President."

John F. Kennedy appointed Walton to head Washington's Fine Arts Commission, a post he held until 1971. He was also well known as a squire of famous women, including Jackie Kennedy Onassis.

Did he ever miss the tumult of combat? Not really. In the 1960s, when *Time* offered to send him to Vietnam, Walton recalls, he refused because he was opposed to that war and "wanted no part of it." Moreover, he says now, he had come too close to losing his life "uncounted" times in France, "and I thought I had used up all my luck."

Editor's Note: This article was reprinted from Time magazine's June 6, 1994, issue.

T O U R R E A D E R S



"I PLUNGED OUT OF THE PLANE door happy to be leaving a ship that was heading toward flak and more Germans. The jump was from such low altitude that there was only a moment to look around in the moonlight after my chute opened..." Thus began the D-day dispatch from *Time* correspondent William Walton, who dropped into Normandy in the early-morning hours of June 6, 1944, with the paratroopers of the U.S. 82nd Airborne Division.

Walton is one of thousands whose thoughts will return to Normandy next week as the world commemorates the 50th anniversary of D-Day. *TIME* marks the event in this issue with a special report that includes an account of the campaign by military historian John Keegan and an essay by Europe editor Christopher Redman on the lessons the great invasion still holds for today's Europe.

Last week Walton and three other surviving Normandy journalists, includ-

ing Walter Cronkite and Andy Rooney of CBS, were honored at New York City's Overseas Press Club. Already a veteran war correspondent when he leaped out of Brigadier General James Gavin's C-47, Walton would go on to report from a dozen battlefields as Allied forces drove the German army east. His elegantly written dispatches for both *TIME* and *LIFE*, to quote a recent article in *Town & Country* magazine, "were like bright streaks in the sky above the real artillery."

Walton's World War II exploits were just the beginning of a charmed and charming life. He left journalism in 1949 to work full time as a painter. Around the same time, he came to

A CHARMED AND CHARMING LIFE: Walton taps out a story 50 years ago in Normandy. Today, at 84, he still paints in his studio in Manhattan.

Walter Keegan
—Executive Vice President

artillery."

Walton's World War II exploits were just the beginning of a charmed and charming life. He left journalism in 1949 to work full time as a painter. Around the same time, he came to

The Overseas Press Club of America, Inc.
320 East 42nd Street, Mezzanine
New York, NY 10017 USA

**BOARD OF GOVERNORS
ANNUAL
MEETING:
Tuesday, Aug. 16
5:30 PM
The Tudor**